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> THE TRANSFORMERS #6

>INFILTRATION

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>>>>>

INFILTRATION:

Determined to deal with his rogue Infiltration unit, Decepticon Commander-in-Chief MEGATRON has arrived on Earth. Already, SKYWARP and BLITZWING have felt, first hand, what it means to defy one of the most powerful Transformers in existence. Now, as RATCHET and BUMBLEBEE report their findings to their fellow AUTOBOTS, MEGATRON heads for the Oregon Command Bunker and a final reckoning with Unit Commander STARSCREAM...

PHASE ONE CONCLUDES!

>>>>>

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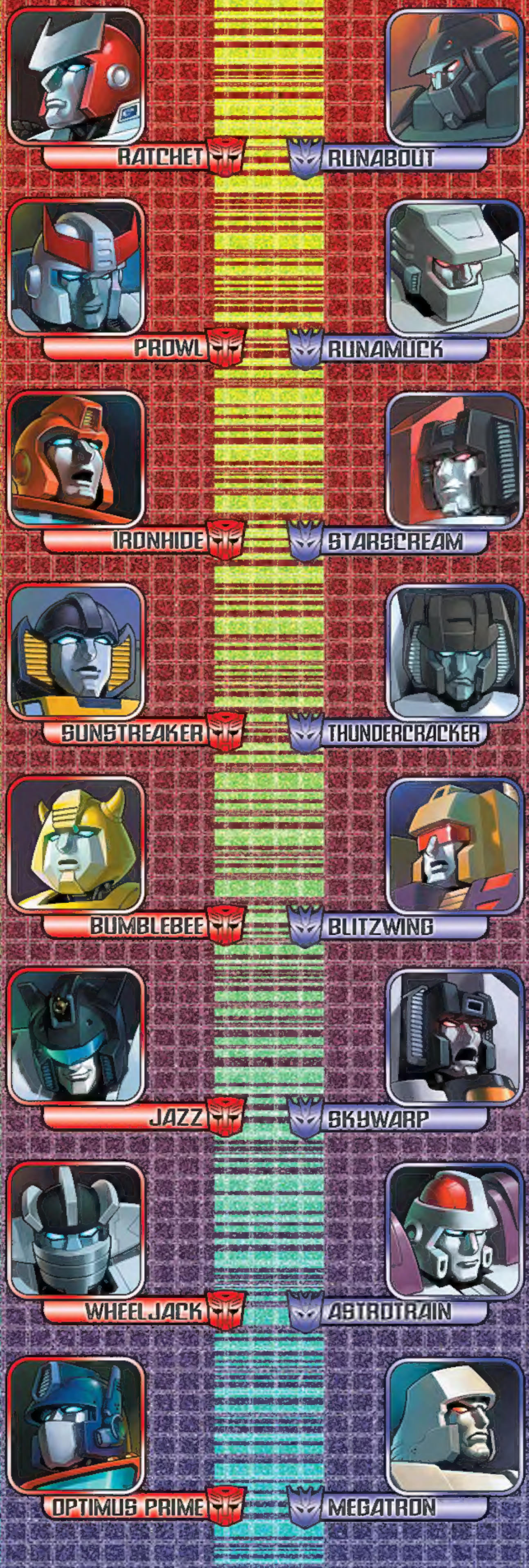


DECIPTICON COMMAND BUNKER (OREGON):

HOW LONG'S HE BEEN *IN*?

A WHOLE *MEGA-CYCLE*! HE'S TAKING A FULL-ON *HIT*.

HE'LL *NEED* IT...

...WORD IS, THE BIG MEG'S ON EARTH. TOOK OUT BOTH *SKYWARP* AND *BLITZWING*. THEY'RE HURT. HURT *BAD*.

HE'S COMING HERE?

WHAT D'*YOU* THINK?

I THINK... WE'RE IN *WAY* TOO DEEP. WE-

STAND AND *FIGHT*!

THIS WAS ALWAYS ANTICIPATED. AS SOON AS WE BROKE HIS PRECIOUS PROTOCOL, IT WAS INEVITABLE HE'D COME HERE TO SHOW US THE *ERROR* OF OUR WAYS.

ONLY NOW... WE'RE *READY* FOR HIM. *MORE* THAN READY. NO MORE ARTIFICIAL *ENERGON* DERIVATIVES, NO MORE SCRABBLING FOR MICRO-ERGS OF SOME FOUL LOCAL BREW. THIS... IS THE *REAL* THING!

MEGATRON... HE'S *HISTORY.*

HE JUST DOESN'T KNOW IT YET.

IOWA:

I GOT A QUESTION. IF THIS *MEGATRON* IS HEADED WEST, TO ORGEON...

...HOW COME WE'RE ON THE I-80, EASTBOUND?

HEY, I'M JUST WINDOW-DRESSING. ASK *HIM*.

WELL?

PROWL WANTS YOU *OUT* OF HARM'S WAY, AND FOR ONCE I AGREE WITH HIM. WE'RE GOING BACK TO *THE ARK*.

WHAT?

YOU SAID-

I KNOW WHAT I SAID. BUT FOR YOU THREE, AT LEAST, THIS IS *OVER*. THAT YOU'RE STILL ALIVE, UNINJURED, IS A MINOR MIRACLE.

I SHOULD *NEVER* HAVE INVOLVED YOU IN THE FIRST PLACE.

BUT-

VERITY...

...LET IT GO.

THIS... IS TOO *BIG*, EVEN FOR US. I–I'VE SEEN THINGS TODAY I CAN BARELY COMPREHEND, AND I FOR ONE NEED A VERY LONG MOMENT HERE.

JIMMY?

I'M WITH HUNTER. I'M ACTUALLY GLAD WE'VE BEEN SIDELINED. WE... COULD HAVE DIED BACK THERE.

LOOK, VERITY...

...IT'S *OKAY* TO BE SCARED.

KH—

—HHHHH!

I KNOW.

YOU DID *AMAZINGLY*, IN THE FACE OF THINGS THAT YOU COULD HARDLY BE EXPECTED TO TAKE ONBOARD. YOU *HELPED* US... TO UNDERSTAND WHY THINGS HAVE GONE SO DRASTICALLY *WRONG* HERE.

LET THE *OTHERS* HANDLE IT NOW. TRUST ME...

...THEY'RE *BETTER EQUIPPED.*

WHOOP-WHOOP

BUMBLEBEE–HOW'S IT LOOKING THERE?

SO FAR, SO QUIET, PROWL. NO SIGN OF MEGATRON. IN FACT... NOTHING MUCH GOING ON AT ALL! MOST DEFINITELY...

...THE CALM BEFORE THE *STORM*!

IF *RATCHET'S* RIGHT AND THE *INFILTRATION* UNIT'S TAPPED SOME NEW ENERGY SOURCE AND THEN FIGURED TO KEEP IT FOR THEMSELVES, THEN MEGATRON'S SURE TO BE ALONG *ANYTIME* NOW...

...TO PUT HIS HOUSE *IN ORDER.*

WHAT'S OUR *BRIEF*, CHIEF?

CONTAINMENT, JAZZ. THAT'S IT. WE ESTABLISH A PERIMETER AND TRY AND MAKE SURE THIS DOESN'T SPREAD.

THE COMMAND BUNKER'S IN AN *ISOLATED* SPOT, BUT WHEN THIS GOES DOWN..

THERE'S GOING TO BE *FALLOUT*!

WHOA. HANG *ON*... I'M READING A BUILD-UP OF CHARGED ANTI-PROTONS.

AAAND... YEP, WE HAVE OURSELVES AN ORBITAL BOUNCE.

HE'S *HERE*

STARSCREAM!

HERE WE *GO*.

RUNABOUT, RUNAMUCK, THUNDERCRACKER, AND ASTROTRAIN—

THE WELCOME WAGON.

FOUR AGAINST ONE

I ALMOST FEEL *SORRY* FOR THEM!

YOU WILL STAND *DOWN*

IF YOU FIGHT, YOU *DIE* THERE IS NO ROOM ANYMORE FOR MERCY. IN THE END, YOU ARE *ALL* EXPENDABLE

CHOOSE.

STRUTLESS COWARDS!

YOU HAVE *ALL* DRUNK FROM THE WELL OF ABSOLUTE POWER... AND YET *STILL* YOU WAVER.

ULTIMATELY, MEGATRON IS ARGONIZED STEEL AND POLYMER SINEW, JUST LIKE US. HE CAN BE *HURT*...

HE CAN BE *KILLED*...

WHOOOSH

WH-

-UUUUH!

BUMBLEBEE?

WE RE *ALMOST* THERE *HANG ON* .

I'M OKAY I THINK

LISTEN, NOT THAT I DON'T APPRECIATE SOME BACK-UP AN' ALL, BUT HONESTLY...

I THINK WE RE *BYSTANDERS* AT BEST *COLLATERAL DAMAGE* AT WORST .

I HAD THOUGHT WE WERE *BETTER* THAN THIS, THAT SUCH POWER PLAYS WERE A THING OF THE TUMULTUOUS PAST.

WE ARE DECEPTICONS- THE DOMINANT, THE UNBOWED, THE BASTION. THAT SHOULD BE *ENOUGH*

I AM

ZUUUF

"...DISAPPOINTED"

ZKKK!

AHK! OKAY, FINE LET'S DO THIS

...ON YOUR LEVEL!

IIINCOMIIING!

SKOOM

I LOOKED *UP* TO YOU ONCE. I *DID* AND THEN I REALIZED IT WASN'T RESPECT, IT WAS *FEAR*. *YOU* HAD THE POWER.

WELL..

NOT ANYMORE!

THANKS TO ORE-13, MEGATRON, I HAVE EVOLVED... *BEYOND* YOU! I AM THE *FUTURE* WHEN YOU POSTED ME TO THIS BACKWATER ROCK IN SPACE...

...YOU WERE SOWING THE SEEDS OF YOUR *OWN* DESTRUCTION! NOW...

. REAP THE WHIRLWIND!

AHH-AH-

-AH-HUH

THAT... FELT... *GOOD*. REALLY, I CAN'T TELL HOW LONG I'VE-

FINISHED?

WHAT? NO... *NO*...

I HAVE TAKEN YOUR *MEASURE*, STARSCREAM...

...AND, NOT FOR THE FIRST TIME, FOUND IT WANTING.

UH-OH ..

NO PRIZES FOR GUESSING WHAT COMES NEXT

HEY!

WE GOT OURSELVES A *SPECTATOR*!

EH-HEH...

ZAK

ZAK

ZAK

SORRY, SQUIRT.. THIS IS AN *INTERNAL MATTER*!

FHT!

SQUIRT HE MAY BE...

..BUT HE'S *OUR* SQUIRT.

NOW, WHAT SAY WE *ALL* TAKE OUR FINGERS *OFF* THE TRIGGER...

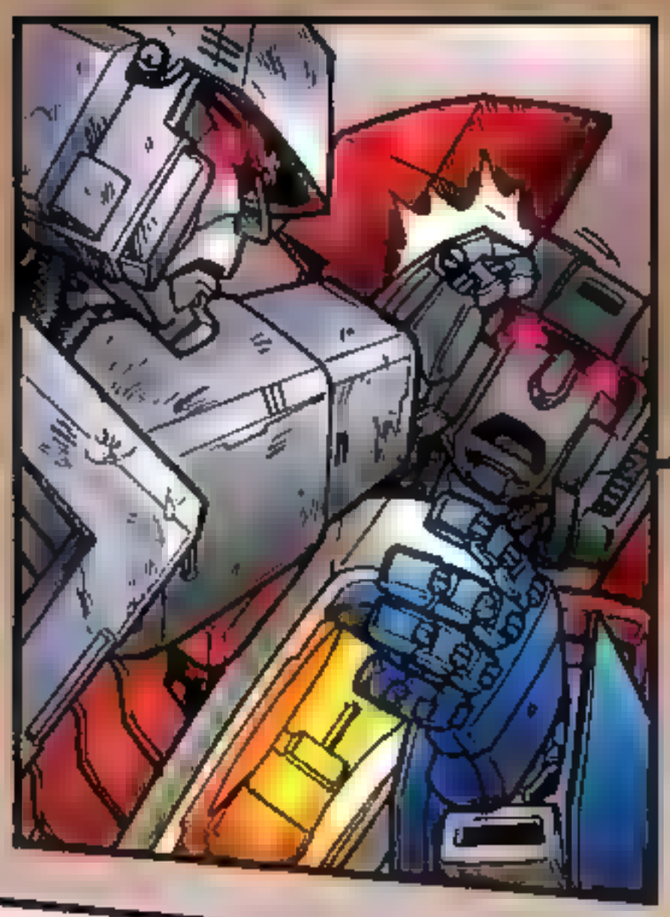
AND JUST LET THOSE TWO SORT OUT THEIR *DIFFERENCES*.

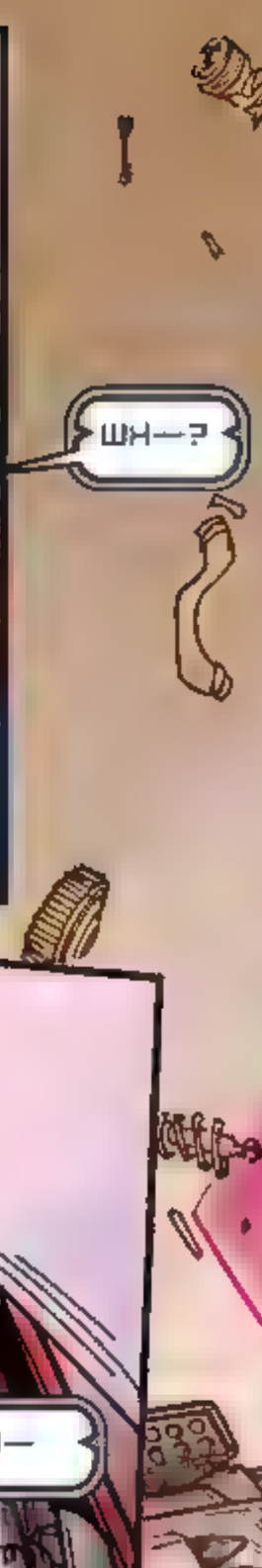
YOU .

...SHOULD BE DEAD. THIS... *ISN'T* HOW IT HAPPENS!

THIS COMMAND IS A *DISGRACE*, STARSCREAM, YOUR SECURITY HAS BEEN COMPROMISED–BY A *HUMAN*, NO LESS YOU FAILED TO CONTAIN THE DATA AND–UNFORGIVABLY–PLACED YOUR *OWN* INTERESTS ABOVE THOSE OF THE IMPERIUM.

AT LEAST NOW...




...TAKE YOUR *PUNISHMENT* LIKE A DECEPTICON!
N—

SHA—?

SHAAP

TAKE HIM INSIDE. SEE TO THE REMAINS IF HE LIVES...

. THEN I'LL DECIDE WHAT TO DO WITH HIM.

WH-

WHAT ABOUT THEM?

PHASE ..

..TWO

PROWL?

WE JUST GOING TO LET THEM SLOPE OFF INTO THEIR COSY SIEGE BUNKER?

YEP.

THANK THE PRIMAL SOURCE FOR THAT!

MEGATRON, ORE-13... THE BALANCE OF POWER HERE HAS *SHIFTED*, PERHAPS IRREVOCABLY. AT A STROKE, EARTH HAS GONE FROM JUST ANOTHER ENTRENCHMENT TO POSSIBLY THE PIVOTAL FRONTLINE

WE NEED THE *HEAVY HITTERS.*

IRONHIDE, JAZZ, WHEELJACK, SUNSTREAKER, BUMBLEBEE?

ROLL OUT!

BUT HEY, IF YOU'RE STILL LISTENING, DECEPTICONS...

..WE'LL BE *BACK!*

LAKE MICHIGAN, LATER:

AIRTIGHT SEALS ENGAGED...

TNNG

FLASH

TWANG

TIME

711

NORMAL

201 M

WELL, EITHER WE JUST WITNESSED A BIZARRE AUTOMOTIVE MASS SUICIDE...

...OR WE *FOUND* WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR.

THE MACHINATION WANTS ONE OF THESE "TRANSFORMERS"...

...LET'S GO *GET* 'EM ONE!

BELOW:

ER, EXCUSE ME,...

...WHAT ARE THE HUMANS DOING *OUT?*

THERE'S A LOCAL EXPRESSION, SUNSTREAKER, SOMETHING ABOUT EQUINE LIFEFORMS AND THE EGRESS FROM THEIR GIVEN HABITATION.

EH?

NEVER MIND.

THE HUMANS ARE THE *LEAST* OF OUR CONCERNS. I HATE TO SAY IT, BUT RATCHET WAS RIGHT...

...IT'S TIME WE CALLED IN *OPTIMUS PRIME.*

ER...

...I THINK...

ALIEN DEATHRAY

"...HE'S ALREADY HERE!"

PHASE 1 CONCLUDED.